State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

California Department of Public Health

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Interim Director

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

April 26, 2011   AFL 11-32

TO: General Acute Care Hospitals

SUBJECT: Requirements for Reporting Surgical Site Infections

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 1288.55

The purpose of this letter is to notify California general acute care hospitals (GACHs) of new California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance for reporting surgical site infections (SSI) as mandated under HSC Section 1288.55.

The statute does not allow for phased-in implementation for reporting of all surgical site infections; therefore, this letter amends the guidance provided in AFL 11-23.

Commencing with surgeries performed on or after June 1, 2011, GACHs must report to CDPH through the Centers for Disease Control Prevention National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) all SSI in accordance with HSC section 1288.55 (a) (3):

> "Each health facility shall report quarterly to the department all health-care-associated surgical site infections of deep or organ space surgical sites, health-care-associated infections of orthopedic surgical sites, cardiac surgical sites, and gastrointestinal surgical sites designated as clean and clean-contaminated, and the number of surgeries involving deep or organ space, and orthopedic, cardiac, and gastrointestinal surgeries designated clean and clean-contaminated."

NHSN does not specifically categorize surgical procedures according to type of surgery identified in HSC 1288.55. Regulations to clarify the provisions of HSC 1288.55 have not yet been promulgated, and will not be in place for several years. Pending adoption of regulations for reporting of SSIs, CDPH has identified NHSN operative procedures (Attachment A) that are consistent with the requirements of the law.

Each GACH shall declare which reportable operative procedures are performed in their facilities in the *Patient Safety Monthly Reporting Plan* in NHSN. The *Patient Safety Monthly Reporting Plan* will indicate procedures the facility will be reporting in order to fulfill the

reporting requirements of HSC 1288.55. Effective June 1, 2011 and every month thereafter, facilities must update the *Patient Safety Monthly Reporting Plan.*

All facilities must follow NHSN protocols for identifying and reporting these infections, including the use of listed ICD-9 codes to identify SSI. CDPH will publicly report on its website those risk adjusted SSI rates required by HSC 1288.55.

Data must be submitted for each patient undergoing the specified surgical procedures. Information on these NHSN protocols is available at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/psc_pa.html, including the importation of procedure data from electronic data files.   NHSN will allow importation of procedure data by generating import files from hospital information systems that follow clinical document architecture (CDA) standards as published by NHSN at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/CDA_eSurveillance.html, in an ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) comma delimited text, or are in a CSV (comma separated value) file format. Guidance on the necessary steps to develop CSV importation capabilities is available through the CDPH HAI Liaison Program. Contact information for Liaison Program staff is available at http://www.cdph.ca.gov/hai.

For questions, the point of contact at CDPH is the Healthcare-Associated Infections Program at infectioncontrol@cdph.ca.gov or phone (510) 412-6060.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Pamela Dickfoss

Pamela Dickfoss
Acting Deputy Director
Center for Health Care Quality

Attachment

Attachment A:

NHSN Operative Procedures Identified by CDPH as Consistent with Meeting the Requirements of Health and Safety Code Section 1288.55 for reporting of Surgical Site Infections

CDC Legacy Code	Operative Procedure	Description
AAA	Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair	Resection of abdominal with anastomosis or replacement
APPY	Appendix surgery	Total or partial amputation or disarticulation of the upper or lower limbs, including digits
BILI	Bile duct, liver or pancreatic surgery	Excision of bile ducts or operative procedures on the biliary tract, liver or pancreas (does not include operations only on gallbladder)
CARD	Cardiac surgery	Open chest procedures on the valves or septum of heart; does not include coronary artery bypass graft, surgery on vessels, heart transplantation, or pacemaker implantation
CBGB	Coronary artery bypass graft with both chest and donor site incisions	Chest procedure to perform direct revascularization of the heart; includes obtaining suitable vein from donor site for grafting.
CBGC	Coronary artery bypass graft with chest incision only	Chest procedure to perform direct vascularization of the heart using, for example, the internal mammary (thoracic) artery
CHOL	Gallbladder surgery	Cholecystectomy and cholecystotomy
COLO	Colon surgery	Incision, resection, or anastomosis of the large intestine; includes large-to-small and small-to-large bowel anastomosis; does not include rectal operations
CSEC	Cesarean section	Obstetrical delivery by Cesarean section
FUSN	Spinal fusion	Immobilization of spinal column
FX	Open reduction of fracture	Open reduction of fracture or dislocation of long bones that requires internal or external fixation; does not include placement of joint prosthesis
GAST	Gastric surgery	Incision or excision of stomach; includes subtotal or total gastrectomy; does not include vagotomy and fundoplication
HPRO	Hip prosthesis	Arthroplasty of hip
HTP	Heart transplant	Transplantation of heart
HYST	Abdominal hysterectomy	Removal of uterus through an abdominal incision
KPRO	Knee prosthesis	Arthroplasty of knee
KTP	Kidney transplant	Transplantation of kidney
LAM	Laminectomy	Exploration or decompression of spinal cord through excision or incision into vertebral structures
LTP	Liver transplant	Transplantation of liver
NEPH	Kidney surgery	Resection or manipulation of the kidney with or without removal of related structures
OVRY	Ovarian surgery	Operations on ovary and related structures
PACE	Pacemaker surgery	Insertion, manipulation or replacement of pacemaker

CDC Legacy Code	Operative Procedure	Description
REC	Rectal surgery	Operations on rectum
RFUSN	Refusion of spine	Refusion of spine
SB	Small bowel surgery	Incision or resection of the small intestine; does not include small-to-large bowel anastomosis
SPLE	Spleen surgery	Resection or manipulation of spleen
THOR	Thoracic surgery	Noncardiac, nonvascular thoracic surgery; includes pneumonectomy and hiatal hernia repair or diaphragmatic hernia repair (except through abdominal approach.)
VHYS	Vaginal hysterectomy	Removal of the uterus through vaginal or perineal incision
XLAP	Abdominal surgery	Abdominal operations not involving the gastrointestinal tract or biliary system. Includes diaphragmatic hernia repair through abdominal approach.